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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/175,522	10/20/1998	PAUL STEPHAN BEDROSIAN	L0012/7001	7010

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EXAMINER

PHAN, HANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2633

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/175,522

Applicant(s)

BEDROSIAN, PAUL STEPHAN

Examiner

Hanh Phan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 1998.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 14 and 16-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-10, 14 ¹⁶⁻²⁰ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13, 15 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed on 12/03/2002.
2. In claim 1, line 1, the phrase "Apparatus for providing synchronization signals" should be changed to --An apparatus for providing synchronization signals--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1 and 16 are rejected under 35U.S.C.102(e) as being anticipated by Walter et al (U.S. Patent number 6,418,151).

Regarding claims 1 and 16, referring to figures 2 and 4, Walter teaches an apparatus for providing synchronization signals to a telecommunications network comprising: a central synchronization management unit (i.e., PRC 1(GPS), CSE-3, SAM-CS)(Fig. 4) for distributing synchronization signals (col. 1, lines 10-52), and a synchronization distribution unit (i.e., ADM

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16/4)(Fig. 4) connected to receive synchronization signals from the central synchronization management unit and to distribute the signals to at least one network element (i.e., ADM 155, LXC16/1, 1SM2DSS)(col. 2, lines 20-67 and col. 3, lines 1-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Walter et al (U.S. Patent number 6,418,151) in view of Moulton et al (U.S. Patent number 6,487,262).

Regarding claim 2, Walter differs from claim 2 in that he does not specifically teach the synchronization signals are optical signals. However, Moulton teaches the synchronization signals are optical signals (Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 53-67 and col. 5, lines 1-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the synchronization signals are optical signals as taught by Moulton in the system of Walter in order to provide a high bandwidth telecommunication network.

Regarding claim 3, the combination of Walter and Moulton teaches the central synchronization management unit comprises: an input port for receiving a clock signal, and an

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optical processor for producing optical clock signals (Fig. 2 of Moulton, col. 4, lines 53-67 and col. 5, lines 1-16).

Regarding claim 4, Walter further teaches a processor for retiming clock signals received at said input port (Fig. 4, col. 1, lines 19-40).

7. Claims 5-10, 14 and 17-20 are rejected under 35U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Walter et al (U.S. Patent number 6,418,151) in view of Moulton et al (U.S. Patent number 6,487,262) and further in view of Ojaniemi (U.S. Patent number 5,727,034).

Regarding claims 5 and 17, the combination of Walter and Moulton differs from claims 5 and 17 in that it does not specifically teach the input port is equipped to receive clock signals from a plurality of clock sources. However, Ojaniemi teaches the input port is equipped to receive clock signals from a plurality of clock sources 2, col. 3, lines 5-67, col. 4, lines 1-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the input port is equipped to receive clock signals from a plurality of clock sources as taught by Ojaniemi in the system of the combination of Walter and Moulton in order to make available an clock source in case of outage to maintain the synchronization system.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, the combination of Walter, Moulton, and Ojaniemi teaches the central synchronization management unit selects one of a plurality of input clock signals as a primary clock output signal (Fig. 2 of Ojaniemi and Fig. 2 of Moulton).

Regarding claim 8, the combination of Walter, Moulton, and Ojaniemi teaches the synchronization distribution unit comprises a passive optical input port configured to receive an

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optical clock signal and to split the optical clock signal into two signals, routing one of the split signals to an optical output (Fig. 4 of Malter, Fig. 2 of Moulton, and Fig. 2 of Ojaniemi).

Regarding claims 9 and 18, the combination of Walter, Moulton, and Ojaniemi teaches the synchronization distribution unit comprises a active optical input port configured to receive an optical clock signal; and a clock recovery system configured to perform clock recovery on an optical clock signal received at either the active or passive optical input port (Fig. 4 of Malter, Fig. 2 of Moulton, and Fig. 2 of Ojaniemi).

Regarding claims 10 and 19, the combination of Walter, Moulton, and Ojaniemi teaches the clock recovery system is configured to receive optical clock signals from said active optical input port and from said passive optical input port and to perform clock recovery on an optical clock input from a selected one of the active and passive optical input ports (Fig. 4 of Malter and Fig. 2 of Moulton).

Regarding claim 14, Walter further teaches further comprising a second synchronization distribution unit connected in series with the synchronization distribution unit connected to receive synchronization signals from the central synchronization management unit, the second synchronization distribution unit configured to receive synchronization signals from the synchronization distribution unit connected to receive synchronization signals from the central synchronization management unit (Figs. 2 and 4 of Walter).

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Regarding claim 20, the combination of Walter, Moulton, and Ojaniemi teaches the selected clock signal is converted from an optical to an electrical signal before transmission to the network element (Fig. 2 of Moulton).

8. Claims 11-13, 15, and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lemieux (U.S.Patent number 6,256,507) teaches telecommunications network synchronization for data services.

Kinstler (U.S.Patent number 6,057,949) teaches optical communication system.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh Phan whose telephone number is (703)306-5840.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached on (703)305-4729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9314.

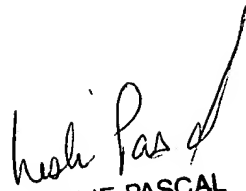
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

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should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-4700.


LESLIE PASCAL
PRIMARY EXAMINER